



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

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Contact: Beth Bresnahan
(617) 727-7765 ext.127

ROMNEY AWARDS EASTHAMPTON \$544,628 FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROJECT

In an economic development move that will attract new businesses and create job opportunities in Easthampton, Governor Mitt Romney today awarded the city low-interest loans of \$544,628 to support substantial renovations and improvements at Eastworks, LLP, a four-story, multi-use mill building located at 116 Pleasant Street. Enhancements to the partially refurbished mill will include finishing untenanted space within the building, as well as much needed exterior and streetscape improvements to enhance the overall safety and appearance of the property.

75 tenants currently operate businesses from the Eastworks building, providing over 170 part and full-time jobs to local residents. When completed, the renovated mill building will house 46 residential/workspace units, 290m square feet of commercial office space and 30m square feet of retail space. It is projected that the building improvements will attract new commercial tenants creating an additional 36 full time jobs in the next three years.

The state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will administer the loans through two of its federally funded Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant programs. \$144,628 will come from the Massachusetts Community Capital Fund and \$400,000 will come from the Ready Resource Fund. The state CDBG program was signed into law in 1981, and since that time, more than \$20 billion has been awarded nationwide to address a variety of social, economic and environmental issues for communities.

“This is a wonderful example of how government can work to improve the state’s economy,” said DHCD Director Jane Wallis Gumble. “I am pleased to be working with the City of Easthampton on this project which will have a significant positive impact on the local economy.

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